7/6/70

Asst.
Mr. Thomas J. Kelley, Director
U.S.Secret Service
1800 G. St., nw, #845
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Your letter of June 24, 13 days ago, arrived today, the envelope without postmark. It is a mixture of equivocation, evasion and pretended pious hopes you know have been and will continue to be without fulfillment.

At the time of our meeting several months ago I did have the feeling that, under difficult circumstances, "the Secret Service is attempting to be as helpful and responsive as possible". Its record since then persuades otherwise. I have written you since then in an effort to obtain that which you said would be made available to me and was not and in what I regard as an effort to be helpful to you, without response. And about most of the items I took up with you and your associates on the occasion of that meeting, giving you a written list of them at that time, there has been nothing but silence. I really do believe it is somewhat of an exaggeration to call silence and non-responsiveness " helpful and responsive as possible".

I agree that "the Archives should be the source of all the information and documents " I am and have been seeking, but you and I both know this has not been and will not be the case, for you know they have not given me what you gave them to give me and you also know that you have not told me what you gave them to give me, so how can I know what you did or did not give, did or did not withhold? My requests for copies of all covering letters have been completely ignored. So, how can I know what the Archives is withholding of what you may have given them to give me? Would you describe this record as "attempting to be as helpful and responsive as possible?"

We both know that, whether or not innocently, you have, in the past, repeatedly told me you had sent to the Archives what, in fact, you had not and, even after my explicit letters, did not even check to see for yourself.

Yours is the agency of paramount interest, under the interpretation of the law by the Department of Justice, with much of what I seek. In almost every case I have not found it or been improperly denied it elsewhere. Having been informed of its interpretation of the law by the Department, whether or not I agree with it, as I have already told you, I cannot entirely ignore it. Therefore, though I would much prefered to avoid it, I have the need for filing against the Secret Service, the alternative being not getting that to which I am convinced I am entitled and worse, allowing the government to continue flouting the law and, in various demeaning ways, continuing to suppress what no decent person should ever consider suppressing. While I very much regret this, it is you who have made the decisions, not I. If it can be no other way, this is the way it will have to be.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg